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4. Vietnamese-West German technical exchange agreement in the making: A high South Vietnamese official has informed Ambassador Conant in Bonn that a West German-Vietnamese technical exchange agreement is being worked out whereby German technicians will go to Vietnam and Vietnamese students will go to Germany.

This source also stated that continuing Vietnamese efforts to achieve West German recognition of Vietnam are encouraging, although it appears that the Germans are largely interested in economic and commercial advantages at this time. He stated that the Germans seem to have some question on Vietnam's stability and are apparently awaiting the outcome of the 1956 election issue before committing themselves diplomatically. [REDACTED] 4 Oct 55) 25X1A2g

Comment: Such a technical exchange agreement with West Germany is indicative of burgeoning Vietnamese economic independence. The relative ease with which the negotiations have been carried out will probably encourage the Vietnamese to seek other similar arrangements abroad.

West Germans have been extremely active in developing commercial relations in the Far East and have welcomed this approval by the Vietnamese. ~~(SECRET)~~